

April 17, 1998

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The Energy Consortium  
42 Labor-In-Vain Road  
Ipswich, Massachusetts 01938

George Dean, Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
Regulated Industries Division  
200 Portland Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

David O'Connor, Commissioner  
Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources  
100 Cambridge Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02202

Re: Request for Extension for Filing Initial Comments, D.T.E. 98-32

Dear Ms. Sylvia, Mr. Paul, Mr. Dean, and Commissioner O'Connor:

On April 16, 1998, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") received a request from the Customer Group of the Massachusetts Gas Unbundling Collaborative for an extension of time from April 24, 1998 to May 8, 1998 for filing initial comments in D.T.E. 98-32 ("Request for Extension"). According to the Customer Group, its members overlooked the fact that the week of April 20, 1998 is a Massachusetts public school vacation week, and that certain members will be out of town.

While the Department recognizes that this conflict poses scheduling problems, the Department also is aware that the Customer Group, and the Collaborative as a whole, have

been considering the issues raised in the March 18, 1998 Status Report since the summer of 1997. Moreover, participants in the Collaborative have been on notice of the Department's goal to implement customer choice in natural gas by November 1, 1998. The Department finds that granting a one week extension for filing comments adequately addresses the concerns raised in the Request for Extension, and accommodates the Department's plan to meet the November 1, 1998 deadline for customer choice.

The Department, therefore, extends the deadline for filing initial comments until the close of business, Friday, May 1, 1998. In addition, the Department hereby reschedules the procedural conference, originally set for Tuesday, April 28, 1998 at 10:00 a.m., to Friday, May 8, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department's offices. Hearings will commence on May 14, 1998, with final comments due on June 1, 1998.

Sincerely.

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Janet Gail Besser, Chair

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James Connelly, Commissioner

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W. Robert Keating, Commissioner

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Paul B. Vasington, Commissioner

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cc: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary  
Service List-Massachusetts Gas Unbundling Collaborative